

REMARKS

Claims 1 – 16 are pending. Claims 1 – 11 are rejected, and claims 12 – 16 are withdrawn.

The applicants' attorney amends claims 1, 8, 10 and 11, and adds claims 17 – 20. The applicants' attorney also amends paragraphs 1, 14 and 15 of the specification to complete the information in each paragraph. The applicants' attorney respectfully asserts that claims 1 – 11 and 17 – 20, as amended, are in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed below.

If, after considering this response, the examiner believes the claims should not be allowed, the applicants' attorney respectfully requests that before issuing an Office Action, the examiner call Mr. John Janeway (425-455- 5575) to schedule a telephone conference to further the prosecution of the claims.

Rejection of Claims 1 – 7 and 17

The applicants' attorney respectfully asserts that claim 1, as amended, is patentable over U.S. Patent 6,373,697 issued to Lajara *et al.* (Lajara) because Lajara fails to disclose a storage compartment external to the inside of a housing.

The applicants' claim 1, as amended, recites a housing for a computer system, the housing comprising an inside operable to contain processing circuitry and a storage compartment external to the inside of the housing.

For example, as shown in FIG. 2 and discussed in paragraphs 11 and 12 of the specification, a computer system 40 includes a housing 44 that holds and protects processing circuitry disposed inside the housing 44. The housing 44 includes a storage compartment 42 located above the inside of the housing 44. The storage compartment 42 includes a bottom 48 and sides 50 that define an interior 52, and a lid 54 to open and close the compartment 42. Moving the lid 54 to open the compartment 42 does not expose the inside of the housing 44. Thus, one does not have to worry about exposing the processing circuitry to possible damage when one opens the storage compartment 42 to store a portable electronic device such as a digital camera.

In contrast, Lajara fails to disclose a storage compartment external to the inside of the housing. Lajara discloses a system housing 10 (FIGS. 1A – 1C and 12) that includes a chassis 12 (FIGS. 1A – 1C and 12) and panels (14A, 14B, 16 and 20 in FIGS. 1A – 1C and 12) that are attached to the chassis 12. The chassis 12 has a front 13 (FIG. 1B) that together with the attached panels 14A, 14B, 16 and 20 form an enclosure for the system's components. The chassis 12 also has three compartments (shown in FIGS. 5A(1) and 5A(2) but not specifically referenced with a number) each for holding a specific system component. The compartment having the opening 53 holds one or more 3.5", floppy and/or CD drives. The compartment having the opening 19 holds one or more hard disks. And the compartment having the opening 52 holds the system's mother board. As shown in FIGS. 1A – 1C, 5A(1), 5A(2) and 12, all three compartments are contained within the enclosure formed by chassis' front 3 and the panels 14A, 14B, 16 and 20. None of the compartments are external to the enclosure. Therefore, unlike the applicants' claimed housing, Lajara's housing does not include a storage compartment external to the inside of the housing.

Claims 2 – 7 and 17 are patentable by virtue of their dependencies on claim 1 as amended.

Rejection of Claims 8, 9 and 18

Claim 8 is patentable over Lajara for reasons similar to those recited above in support of claim 1 over Lajara.

Claims 9 and 18 are patentable by virtue of their dependencies from claim 8.

Rejection of Claims 10 and 19

Claim 10 is patentable over Lajara for reasons similar to those recited above in support of claim 1 over Lajara.

Claim 19 is patentable by virtue of its dependency from claim 10.

Rejection of Claims 11 and 20

Claim 11 is patentable over Lajara for reasons similar to those recited above in support of claim 1 over Lajara.

Claim 20 is patentable by virtue of its dependency from claim 11.

Conclusion

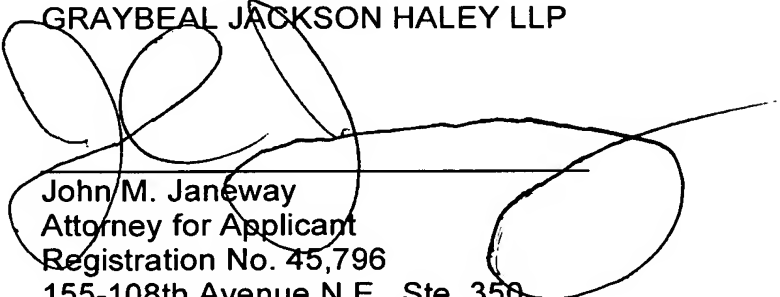
The applicant's attorney respectfully requests the examiner withdraw the rejection against claims 1 – 11 and issue an allowance for claims 1 – 11 and 17 – 20.

If, after considering this response, the examiner believes the claims should not be allowed, the applicants' attorney respectfully requests that before issuing an Office Action, the examiner call Mr. John Janeway (425-455- 5575) to schedule a telephone conference to further the prosecution of the claims.

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Respectfully submitted,

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